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NEWS RELEASE

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UM MORTAR BOARD HONOR SOCIETY RECIEVES NATIONAL AWARD

MISSOULA —

The University of Montana chapter of Mortar Board earned national recognition for excellence at the honor society's annual conference held July 24-26 in Chicago.

UM's Penetralia Chapter was one of 67 chapters nationwide to receive the Silver Torch Award, presented for timeliness and dedication while exemplifying the society's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. Award recipients were selected based on the extent they met national standards and deadlines.

Chapter President Helay Rahimi accepted the award, which shows the success of a cohesive group of senior students during the 2008-09 school year, said Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma, UM Mortar Board adviser.

"They were quite a motivated group that was able to increase community service activities on campus and in the Missoula community," Zellmer-Cuaresma said.

The Penetralia Chapter will begin activities this year with 30 students, who will go on to organize food drives, fundraisers, reading and literacy activities in schools, and the UM senior recognition ceremony.

Mortar Board has a storied history at UM. Currently the chapter, chartered in 1927, recognizes seniors for outstanding scholastic achievement, as well as leadership and service

experience. But the group was originally started in secret by one of UM's first two alumni, Eloise Knowles, in 1904. The national organization was founded in 1918.

For more information on the Penetralia Chapter, call Zellmer-Cuaresma at 243-2504, e-mail jennifer.zellmer-cuaresma@umontana.edu or go online to <http://www.umt.edu/mortarboard/default.htm>.

More information about the national organization is online at <http://www.mortarboard.org>.

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